

Paul Smith Named Services for People with Disabilities Director

Written by Elizabeth Sollis, Public Information Officer
Tuesday, 11 October 2011 00:00

Assistant Director for Utah Division of Services for People with Disabilities (DSPD), Paul Smith, was named DSPD Director on Tuesday, September 6, 2011. "I have heard nothing but praise for Paul from our DSPD stakeholders and employees," said Department of Human Services' Executive Director Palmer DePaulis. "I am confident he will be a great addition to our team and will help us make DSPD a great organization for the service of those who need us so much."

Smith began his career in the private sector doing information technology work. Nine years ago he moved to Utah and, after running his own business for 18 months, applied for a job with DSPD. He was hired to oversee Quality Management and work on the USTEPS database. George Kelner quickly saw Smith's potential and asked him to be the division's legislative liaison. From there, he was selected to participate in the Huntsman Fellowship and, after several months of the fellowship, was asked to be the department's legislative liaison.



In 2008, Smith learned about an Administrative Director position at the Department on Disability Services in Washington, D.C. In this position, Smith helped them develop an exit plan for a federal court case and move out of Center for Medicaid Services intensive monitoring requirements. 18 months later, Smith was working as the Associate Director of Long-Term Care and Managed Care Quality at the Department of Health Care Finance.

As political offices changed, so did the climate of Smith's work and he eventually decided to return to Utah where he was hired as the DSPD Assistant Director. Two months later, DSPD Director Alan Ormsby announced his departure and Smith stepped in as Interim Director.

Although many changes have happened very quickly, Smith is excited to begin this new

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adventure. "It's a whole new division. Private support coordination has changed us and I am looking forward to focusing on partnerships, communication and re-establishing the great value we provide," Smith said.

When asked if there was anything about him that may surprise people, Smith thought for a moment, then said, "I wanted to be an opera singer. I sang with San Francisco Opera for three years and Opera San Jose for five. I also sang in Utah Opera's Summer Series. It's just a hobby."

Smith has a Master of Public Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Information Systems.